

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE



Breaking News: Senate Releases WIOA Reauthorization Discussion Draft

The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) issued the following update June 21 on congressional initiatives to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Earlier today, the Senate made available a [discussion draft](#) of a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Please note that this has been messaged as a discussion draft, and the Senate Committee intends to solicit feedback before finalizing a bill. NAWB intends to be actively engaged in that process.

NAWB was invited to a briefing by Senate committee staff this afternoon and we have a few topline takeaways to share based on our initial review of the legislative text and related briefing:

- **No Training Mandate:** The discussion draft does not contain a mandated spend on training services. This is a major improvement over the House-passed WIOA proposal which contained a 50% training mandate for all Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. NAWB is extremely pleased with this aspect of the proposal.
- **Re-designation of local areas:** The Senate's draft proposal significantly increases the ability for State Governors to consolidate or otherwise restructure local workforce development areas (LWDAs). While these provisions are similar to the House bill in many ways, the Senate's proposal goes much further in affording flexibility to States to re-designate LWDAs. This is an area of significant and growing concern for NAWB.
- **Statewide Funding Reservations:** Similar to the House-passed WIOA proposal, the Senate discussion draft would allow states to set-aside an additional 10% of WIOA Title I funding for statewide training initiatives. However, the draft is a bit more prescriptive and would require these funds to be used for Industry / Sector Partnership efforts or employer-based training activities. NAWB remains concerned about this aspect of the draft proposal as it would result in fewer resources for local communities to address their needs and wider priorities.
- **Funding:** The bill does not propose specific authorized funding levels for any programs authorized under the legislation, instead using "such sums as may be necessary" language throughout the bill. This means that, as written, appropriations leaders would be given much more discretion in determining funding for WIOA as part of the wider federal budget and appropriations process. In addition, the discussion draft envisions providing a new formula funding stream to states and local communities using H-1B visa fees for the exclusive use of funding Individual Training Accounts. As recently highlighted in the Senate's WIOA hearing, the public workforce system must be adequately resourced to meet current and emerging needs. This is a key message NAWB is continuing to elevate for Congress.

There are of course other aspects of this discussion draft that NAWB is continuing to

analyze. We will continue to review the bill and report more in the coming weeks ahead.

WIOA Resources

[WIOA-HELP Bipartisan Senate Discussion Draft](#)

[Section-by-section Summary of the Senate WIOA Draft Bill](#)

[TAWB Senate WIOA Reauthorization Letter Template](#)

TANF - WIOA Investments

The House Ways and Means Committee has asked the US Workforce Association for more stories related to TANF/WIOA funds being spent to advance workforce development priorities/initiatives. [HR7446](#) is a bill allowing part of the TANF Block Grant to be transferred to WIOA Title I. Please send those stories [Chris Andresen](#).

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